

**MINUTES OF AN OPEN MEETING OF THE
REMOTE NOTARY COUNCIL**

Monday, May 17, 2021 at 1 p.m.

Attendees appeared remotely via WebEx

A meeting of the Remote Notary Council took place on Monday, May 17, 2021, beginning at 1:00 p.m. A quorum of council members (Cheri Hipenbecker, Patti Epstein, Jessica Shrestha, and Phil Suckow) was present and appeared remotely via Webex. The meeting proceeded as follows:

Old Business:

Review/adoption of previous meeting's minutes. On the motion of Phil Suckow (second by Patti Epstein), the Council voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of its April 12, 2021 meeting, with Jessica Shrestha abstaining.

Agency updates on program administration and outreach. Matt Lynch of the Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) updated the Council concerning DFI's budget request to help meet its responsibilities under Chapter 140, as well as Jessica Shrestha's reappointment to the Council for a full three-year term.

Continued member discussion regarding development of standards for remote online notarial acts in Wisconsin. Cheri Hipenbecker updated the Council regarding the Secure and Enabling Commerce Using Remote and Electronic Notarization Act (the "SECURE Notarization Act"), which continues to move forward in Congress. The Act would authorize remote online notarization in transactions affecting interstate commerce, subject to identity proofing and other requirements substantially similar to those imposed by Chapter 140 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Jessica Shrestha noted that the State Bar's Real Property, Probate, and Trust Law section has established a Remote Practice Committee to discuss standards for remote witnessing of estate planning documents and related issues.

New Business:

Review of technology provider applicant Notarize.com. The Council met with representatives Nicole Booth and Renee Hunter of Notarize.com and asked questions regarding the company's technologies and capabilities. They explained that the company was founded in 2015 and provides both in-house notarial services and "bring your own notary" products for utilization by its business partners. It performs identity proofing through knowledge-based authentication and credential analysis, and it obtained MISMO certification in July 2020. Notarize.com retains recordings on the notary's behalf for the statutory minimum holding period, which can be accessed by notaries even after they no longer use the platform for RON transactions. The representatives confirmed that Notarize.com could provide prompt notification to DFI whenever Wisconsin notaries become registered to use its platform.

Discussion and vote on applicant OneNotary.us. Council members deliberated on the pending application of OneNotary.us for approval of technology for use in remote online notarizations in Wisconsin. Upon the motion of Phil Suckow (second by Jessica Shrestha), the Council voted unanimously to approve OneNotary.us's application, subject to its acceptance of DFI's revised conditions of approval.

Planning for future meetings: The Council scheduled its next meeting for Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 1 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at roughly 1:50 p.m.

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